

Update from the Meeting with Development Partners LEAD Foundation and Islands of Peace

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The [Africa Research In Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation](http://africa-rising.net/) (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-in-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING is creating opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three regional projects are led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa) and the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads the program's monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment.

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# Introduction

On 8th February 2021, I visited the development partner (Lead foundation) to follow up on recent successes and developments on scaling various technologies since last year's visit. Another visit was on 19th February to the Island of peace. The objective was to follow up on the latest development they have reached concerning scaling activities up to date.

# Lead Foundation

## Current achievements on scaling beneficiaries reached

LEAD Foundation has been implementing the re-greening Dodoma project for the last two years in collaboration with other partners. In addition to re-greening Dodoma through Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), famous as Kisiki Hai in the Swahili language, soil erosion control using Fanya juu/chini terrace technology has also been promoted concurrently across all districts in Dodoma region except Dodoma City.

The ongoing project is expected to raise more than 8,000,000 trees on their farmland through FMNR by 2021 with the integration of Fanya juu/chini terraces. Likewise, the Lead Foundation is scaling contour G sepium technologies through ICRAF.

Since Lead Foundation reported having reached about 1300 scaling beneficiaries' numbers last year, they have made significant progress this year. The total number of scaling beneficiaries reached so far is 3201 through technology transfer and training conducted through champion farmers across Dodoma region. This number comes from all six districts: Bahi, Kongwa, Chamwino, Nchemba, Kondoa, and Mpwapwa districts. Out of this number, a total of 979(31%) have practically implemented and demonstrated Fanya juu/chini technology. Among these numbers, about 298 (110 in Mpwawa, 88 in Kongwa DC) have been trained and are practicing contour G.sepium technologies.

The table below shows the number of farmers (scaling beneficiaries) who have been trained and demonstrated the AR technologies in their farms.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| District Council | # Trained on AR Technology | # Demonstrated/installed | Technology name |
| Bahi | 1386 | 76 | Fanya juu/chini |
| Chamwino | 442 | 219 | Fanya juu/chini |
| Chemba | 249 | 132 | Fanya juu/chini |
| Kondoa | 218 | 98 | Fanya juu/chini |
| Kongwa | 526 | 246 | Fanya juu/chini/Contour G. Sepium |
| Mpwapwa | 380 | 208 | Fanya juu/chini/Contour G. Sepium |
| Total | 3201 | 979 |  |

## Scaling approaches/strategies used

* One-week intensive coaching of champions farmers on fanya juu/chini design with practical sessions
* Coordinators hired at the program level to supervise scaling at ward level
* Use of cinemas/PAs for villagers to see cinema after a short introduction of how the design works (rural communication)
* Fanya juu/chini has been put as permanent agenda in the village meeting
* Bulk message broadcast , more than 70,000 subscribers, reached each season on Fanja Juu/Chini technology and how it works
* Best performing villages awarded with 1.5m to increase more awareness and enhancement

## Noted advantages or key successes

1. Some villages have started introducing by-laws that guide each farmer to design Fanya juu/chini e.g Kiteto village in Kondoa DC
2. Collaboration with other stakeholders has started showing impact. Beehives supply done by INADES is progressing well in areas with Fanya juu/chini.

## Challenges

1. Fanya juu/chini terrace technology is labor-intensive, Fanya juu/chini terrace technology requires expertise, of which the majority of farmers trained in year one (2019/2020) did not do well in year one despite the provision of all working gears.
2. The technology provides difficulty in applying in extensive farming
3. Adoption of Fanya juu/chini is slow in areas where TASAF program helped farmers to design local Fanya juu/chini that led to destroying of farms

# Island of peace(IoP)

## Current achievements on scaling beneficiaries reached

Island of piece and Africa RISING have been implementing scaling of various technologies over the last three years. The technologies associated with post-harvest and vegetables were the major in play. The vegetable technologies implemented were four in total.

Scaling of these technologies was done through Kilimo endelevu project which ended last year. This year, the scaling process is being done through Kilimo Endelevu project.

Last year Island of piece reported reaching 1256 scaling beneficiaries’ number. They have made significant progress this year. A total number of scaling beneficiaries reached so far is 2,155 through technology transfer and training conducted through farmer to farmer spreading in collaboration with project staff and extension officers in the new ten villages apart from the previous ten villages.

## Scaling approaches/strategies used

* Scaling done through trained technical lead farmers
* Spread lead farmers who form groups in neighboring villages
* Use of radio to facilitate debates sessions among farmers in the scaling of technologies

## Key Successes

1. Farmer's knowledge and ability to best handle post-harvest and aflatoxin mitigation have highly Improved.
2. Increased knowledge and change of mind on males toward vegetable production, initially men and households in generally perceived vegetable production as tasks done by females.

## Challenges

Some farmers still think that vegetable production is not fit for commercial purposes but rather for home consumption.